Nancy Blaskewicz, President [blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us](mailto:blaskewicz@wilmington.k12.pa.us)

**Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council**

Michele Evans, Vice President [michele.evans@zoominternet.net](mailto:michele.evans@zoominternet.net)

Linda Ziegler, Secretary [lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us](mailto:lziegler@greenville.k12.pa.us)

Mary Campbell, Treasurer

Paula Kerlik, Membership

**Call to Order:**

The Butler-Lawrence-Mercer Reading Council met April 1, 2014 in the Witherspoon Lake View Room at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. President Nancy Blaskewicz called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. President Blaskewicz acknowledged the officers: President-Elect Michele Evans, Secretary Linda Ziegler, Government Relations Kim Deniker, and Treasurer Mary Campbell. Nancy acknowledged our guests, Heidi Abinader, Chelsea Gaab, Amy Jeffcoat and Jen Tuney. President Blaskewicz asked for the Agenda to be approved. Mary Campbell motioned to approve the agenda. Maile Kirpatrick seconded. The motion was carried.

**Officer Reports:**

* The minutes from the March 19, 2014 meeting were emailed to members. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes stand approved.
* Treasurer Mary Campbell presented the treasurer’s report. As of March 19, 2014, the balance was $4,593.11. Expenses included $307.78 to 251 Sodexo, Inc. and Affiliates for expenses of the March 19,2014 meeting. Balance as of March 31, 2014: $4,285.33.
* Paula Kerlik gave the Membership report. We have 47 members.
* Kim Deniker presented the Government Relations report.

- The International Reading Association (IRA) had changed its name to The International Literacy Association (ILA). The website will remain the same: [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org).

- Act 48 hours earned through KSRA, school districts and/or Intermediate Units will be on the PA website by the end of June, 2014.

* President Nancy Blaskewicz told members that our Charter from KSRA cannot be found.
* President Blaskewicz congratulated Karen Matis on earning her doctorate. Karen described her research with students using e-Readers. Her results showed that students liked getting “free stuff,” read differently, and their interest didn’t taper off over time. The e-dictionary was well liked by her students.

**Unfinished Business:**

* President Blaskewicz presented **BLM Community Involvement Grant** application**s** for approval.

-“Explore the Outdoors Summer Program,” a Shenango Junior-Senior High project was submitted by Karen Matis from Lawrence County.

-“Family Literacy Night,” a Read-a-Thon at Hempfield Elementary School, was submitted by Maile Kirpatrick from Mercer County.

-Both projects will receive a $100 grant. No projects were submitted from Butler County resulting in forfeiture for this year.

**New Business:**

* Library donations have been given to Butler (2), and Ellwood City (2), Greenville (2), Grove City, Sandy Lake, New Castle, Saxonburg, and Slippery Rock. President Blaskewicz Presented the slate of libraries that were suggested by members.
* Butler County: Cranberry, Kittanning, Mars, Prospect, and Zelienole were on the slate. Mary Campbell Motioned to give $100 to Prospect Library. Motion was seconded by Kim Deniker and carried.
* Lawrence County: F. D. Campbell Memorial Library was on the slate. Mary Campbell Motioned to donate $100. Kim Deniker seconded. Motion carried.
* Mercer County: Mercer, Lakeview, and Shenango Valley were on the slate. Elizabeth McChesney motioned to give $100 to Mercer Library. Paula Kerlik seconded. Motion carried.
* Election of officers: As per the BLM By-Laws, Michele Evans will advance to President for her two year term. Ballots for elected offices were counted by Elizabeth McChesney and Jane Dean, and were confirmed by Secretary Linda Ziegler.
* Elected officers for the 2014-2016 (two year terms of service) are Secretary Mary Ann Wilson, and Treasurer Mary Campbell.
* The office of Vice President/President-elect remains unfilled.
* Maile Kirpatrick will serve as at large Council Member #1 (one year term of service) for 2014-15. Heather Buchan will serve as at large Council Member #2 (one year term of service) for 2014-15.
* Heather Buchan will advance to at large Council Member #1 for 2015-2016 as per the BLM Bylaws. The membership will need to elect an at large Council Member #2 at the spring, 2015 meeting.
* Jane Dean motioned to adjourn. Kim Deniker Seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

**Program: “**The Importance of Introducing Multicultural Literature**”** was presented byDr. Ali DuBois, Early Childhood Professor at Westminster College, and her students: Sarah Carlson, Michael Pandolph, and Alex Taylor from Kappa Delta Pi. Dr. Dubois and her students presented a PowerPoint highlighting their service project to bring in a nationally recognized children’s literature author to present at Westminster College. The organization will partner with one or two local school districts and the Scholastic Publishing Company to finance the author visit and provide books at a 40% discount for schools and children. The project helps students understand race and equality while promoting cultural awareness and sensitivity. Slides of Charles R. Smith’s visit during the 2012-2013 school year and testimonials from local teachers, who participated through their local schools, illustrated the impact of the project. The speaker described the year long process of steps starting during spring (one year in advance), fall, and spring of the actual visit. Examples of using websites to assist with planning were shown. The audience was invited to attend “Come Meet Author Arthur Dorros” on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Witherspoon Rooms.

Educators who are interested in promoting an author visit may visit the following websites:

http://education.byu.edu/diversity/other\_sites.html    
http://www.uen.org/k12educator/ell/    
http://homepage.isomedia.com/~jmele/joe.html   
http://multicultural.mrdonn.org/

 Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ziegler, Secretary